

*Eye on the Environment for 4/13/17 (VC Reporter)*

## **Earth Day 2017**

By David Goldstein, VC PWA, IWMD

Earth Day is not until April 22, but local event organizers spread celebrations throughout the month.

We were off to a great start on April 2 at the Museum of Ventura County, where staff from Channel Islands Parks and the Refill Shoppe helped museum volunteers host recycled material crafts, seed planting, and other educational programs for over 500 children, according to Catelyn Kindred, the museum's education specialist.

April 8 was Thousand Oaks' celebration. They annually combine Earth Day with Arbor Day, emphasizing their commitment to trees.

Santa Paula is also combining Earth Day with another event. Next Saturday, April 15, in Santa Paula's Teague Park, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Recology Bridge Church, and the City of Santa Paula are sponsoring a combination Easter and Earth Day celebration. Following an egg hunt at 11 a.m., they will host Earth Day games. The police and fire departments will also present exhibits.

Also on April 15, the city of Oxnard will host an Earth Day event. In Plaza Park from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., booths at Oxnard's Earth Day will focus on hands-on activities for children and information for adults. Some of that information comes with items to take home, including water efficient fixtures and seedlings. Even the music, presented by "The Earthworms," will be educational.

The day before Earth Day, April 21, from noon – 1 p.m., staff from Ventura County's General Services Agency will lead a tour demonstrating their use of native plants, mulch, composting, efficient irrigation, and turf replacement. Reserve your spot on the walking tour by calling 654-2051, then meet at the Ventura County Government Center Hall of Administration fountain at noon.

On April 22, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Ventura Earth Day Eco Fest will bring fun, entertainment, children's activities, exhibitors, and education to Plaza Park. Each year this successful community event is attended by over 5,000 people and 80 exhibitors, according to organizers, who also urge attendees to bicycle to the event. They offer secure bicycle parking and also a free bike valet, but will also host a Green Auto Expo.

In Camarillo on April 22, the Center for Spiritual Living will host an Earth Day celebration at 340 Mobil Avenue, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They will feature plant sales, garden art, lectures, and pot painting.

Ojai's event on April 22 is part of a national movement to spin off a "March for Science" from traditional Earth Day events. Unlike another nationwide spin-off, the "People's Climate Mobilization" on April 29, the marches for science are billed on organizing web sites as "non-political." On April 22, 1970, Earth Day started as an American "teach in" event, but now it commemorated worldwide, focusing on celebration and appreciation as much as education. National march organizers bill their goals as a return to the educational roots of the event.

Ojai's march will begin at 9 a.m. at the Libbey Park fountain with presentations from local scientists and science educators. The march will proceed to the Ojai Valley Woman's Club, at 441 E. Ojai Ave, where Ojai Valley Green Coalition, the Center for Spiritual Living, and others have organized an electric vehicle showcase, activities for kids, and a demonstration garden.

Keep your eye on the environment and attend a local Earth Day event.